

REMARKS

II. Amendment to the Claims

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, 5 claims are pending in the application. Of the pending claims, 3 claims are independent.

VI. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claim No. 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Royer (US 640,418) in view of Valtri et al. (US 3,434,589). Based on the amendment of claim 3 as provided herein, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 3 is rendered moot.

Applicant recognizes that the term 'base', as used by the Examiner, refers not only to the bottom portion or member of a structure, but more generally refers to any structure which supports another structure. Thus, in the Royer reference the Examiner pointed out that element B of Royer acts as a 'base' insofar as it provides support for element B'.

Applicant has amended claim 3 to distinguish claim 3 from Royer. In Royer there is arguably a first telescoping component to which is attached a vented pocket, and a second telescoping component to which a base is attached. However, the amendment of claim 3 provided herein further requires that the second telescoping component be disposed between the base and the first telescoping component, which clearly is not the case in Royer. Thus claim 3 as amended is not rendered obvious by Royer in view of Valtri. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this rejection.

VII. Conclusion

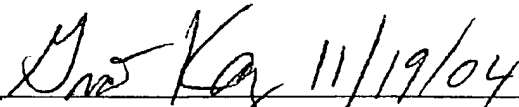
Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 3 is allowable over the prior art of record, including the cited references.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Grant Kang", followed by the date "11/19/04". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

By: Grant D. Kang, Reg. No. 37,651
Husch & Eppenger, LLC
190 Carondelet Plaza
St. Louis, MO 63105
314-480-1640
314-480-1505 FAX